Development of a Light Combat aircraft

2348. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is engaged in the indigenous development of a Light Combat Aircraft; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) will be developed indigenously pooling all resources available within the country. Many of the capabilities existing in several National agencies are being marshalled effectively to fulfil the objectives of the LCA programme. A dedicated society called the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has been formed to undertake various activities relating to the LCA programme. Advanced technologies and related data-base not available indigenously are being judiciously obtained from advanced countries. The LCA programme is being monitored by various high powered bodies where the user is also fully represented to ensure that all his requirements would be fulfilled.

Electoral reform regarding use of religious place

2349. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation regarding ban on the use of religious places for election propagandas which forms part of the set of recommendations made by the Election Commission has since been considered by Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to implement the recommendation by amending Representation of the People Act, 1951 and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) No final decision has been taken so far on the recommendation made by the Election Commission that specific provisions with suitable penalty clauses should be incorporated in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to prevent the use of temples, churches and places of worship as a forum for election purposes. A final decision will be taken after discussing this and other proposals for electoral reforms with the political parties. The question of making suitable amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 will also arise at that time.

Fall in per capita income

2350. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article captioned "Steady fall in per capita income" which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 27th January, 1988 and if so, whether Government have seriously considered its ill effects on the purchasing capacity of people;

(b) whether this decline in per capita income has increased rural-urban "Terms of Trade Equation" and if so, the amount of the rural resources which have been transferred to urban areas per year dur-

ing the last three years, in view of lower farm prices and costly manufactured goods; and

(c) whether Government are aware of its serious implications on the rural population, particularly farmers agitating against such unequal terms of trade between the rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Yes, Sir, the Government are aware of the article referred to. There is no all round steady decline in per capita income.

(b) and (c) Changes in per capita income are not directly related to the changes in Rural-Urban Terms of Trade.

Lack of attraction for Government jobs

2351. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is growing lack of attraction for Government jobs in the recent years; and

(b) if so, the reasons threfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) There is no evidence to conclude that there is any lack of attraction for the Government jobs in the recent years. In fact, the number of applications for various competitive examinations conducted by the Selection Commissions has been increasing over the years.

(b) Does not arise.

Radar Defence of Pakistan

2352. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan was reinforcing its radar defence in preparation for war against India and whether the Pakistan Government signed an agreement with the French Firm Tomson CSF for the purchase of six ground bored radars to be deployed on the Indo-Pakistan border;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the probable sites selected by Pakistan for installation of the six French radars on the Indo-Pakistan border; and

(c) the action taken by Government to counter such a security threat from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Government is aware of Pakistan's intention to acquire ground based radars from M/s. Thomson-CSF of France, Government is also aware that, although these radars are meant to update the surveillance system of the Civil Aviation newtork; Pakistan is trying to integrate them with its air defence network.

(b) Three Primary radars and three secondary radars are likely to be used for approach control at Karachi, Islamabad and Lahore airports. In addition, three secondary radars are proposed to be located at Pasni, Multan and Rahim Yar Khan. One primary radar is also proposd to be located at Quetta

(c) Government has taken adequate steps to cater for such deployments that may have a bearing on the security of the country.